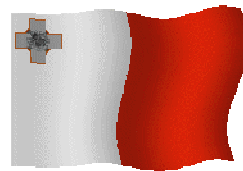


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan  
Radio Amateurs

Number 36

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**Tpejjipx**  
No Smoking

## Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

### From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for March 2009, which is issue 36 of this series.

The **MARL** Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 22 February. During this meeting the Committee election was held where some members from the previous committee did not contest and new ones were elected.

We auger well all those who have been elected in the Committee especially the new ones to start working in the interest of our members as I do not have the slightest doubt that all the members are going to do, both the new ones as well as the previous ones.

As I always do and as also was appealed by the Secretary during the Annual General Meeting, I appeal to you the members to take part in this magazine by sending some information that you may have to be published.

This not only lightens the work to make this magazine that you do not believe how many whole days it takes to do, but be an example to others and at the same time you will be giving your share to the dissemination of information among the members and everyone who reads this magazine.

I don't have the slightest doubt that every radio amateur has something to tell, and if everyone sends even something small the weight is greatly reduced. Remember what used to be said that at another time that **"if an egg had ears it will be carried by two"**.

In this edition we have very interesting information sent by **Chris, 9H1BW**, one where he passed on to me copies of **Robert Galea, VP3E – ZB1E – 9H1E** license as I had already given you information and also today about him and who was the first radio amateur that used to transmit from Malta since the year 1914.

**Chris** also sent me an internet link from where I could download photos of what was known as the woodpecker that I have no doubt that those who have been licensed for some time remember it in the 70-80's while the new ones will learn something about it. Thanks to **Chris**.

My e-mail address is **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**

I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful to you and if you have some article please leave it in my **QSL** box.

**Lawrence**  
**9H1AV/9H9MHR**

**VP3E – ZB1E**  
**Robert F. Galea**

As you know, in the last issue I had asked that whoever has any information about radio amateurs that used to work from Malta and their **QSL** cards to send me this information so that it will remain written down for history.

This appeal was heard and I had an answer from **Christopher, 9H1BW** who was gentle enough to send me a copy of **VP3E** license who later became **ZB1E**, as well as a copy of his two **QSL** cards, one when he was licensed as **VP3E** and the other as **ZB1E**.

I remind you that he was **Robert F. Galea** who for many long years was the **QSL** Buro manager for **Malta** and used to do this work alone.

It's good that you should note that these licenses used to be issued by the Governor General and they have interesting features when examined.

This license was issued on 18 October 1937, nearly two years before the last war.

It's good that you should note that between **Robert's** letter for which there is a reference in the letter sent to him by the Assistant Government Secretary which letter **Robert** had written on 4 October 1937 and the date when he was authorized to use modulation or radio telephony more than a year had passed.

Another thing that one notices is that it is specifically authorizing **Robert** to use modulation or radio telephony and therefore not only Morse code.

This means that **Robert** was not given only this license, but that this license was specifically given to experiment with modulation.

Therefore one comes to a conclusion that he already had a licence to work using Morse code and afterwards had applied and was given a license to work and experiment also with modulation.

In fact, there is a reference that he had license **Radio A/3216** to which I shall refer later.

Note that in the conditions it is said that on no account shall modulation exceed 100%.

This was because as everyone knows, there will be no interference to other stations on nearby frequencies, and here one has to remember that receiving apparatus was not as sophisticated as we have today.

Apart from this, there was the condition that no gramophone record could be played more than five times in a day. This means that this license is confirming that at that time, radio amateurs could transmit music and other things by means of gramophone records and could use different records so as not to use the same record more than five times a day.

Therefore, not only could radio amateurs at that time be considered as radio amateurs as we know them today, but one can also consider them as radio broadcasters with official license in Malta.

No. W/T 3216.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

MALTA, 18th October 1937

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the  
4th October 1937, I am desired by His Excellency  
the Governor to transmit to you, herewith, a Special  
Licence for the use of Modulation or Radio-Telephony.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*R. F. Galea*  
Acting Secretary to Government

Lieut. R.F.Galea, R.E. (Militia)

20 Collegiate Street,

Birkirkara.

The license number **W/T A 3216** can be an indication that Robert already had his first official license to work with Morse code issued in 1932 as was the practice previously. The letter **A** probably refers to Amateur.

Probably the number 16 is an indication of the month and day on which the license was issued. In this case, this would have been issued on 1 June 1932. It could not have been issued on 6 January because at that time it was a public feast of the Epiphany or as some know it in Malta as the Tre Re.

**MALTA**

**WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ORDINANCE No. II OF 1922.**

**Special Licence granted by the Governor of Malta for the use of  
Modulation or Radio-Telephony.**

PERMISSION is hereby granted to

Lieutenant Robert Frederick Galea, R.E. (Militia) -----

holder of Licence "Radio A/...3246.....", to carry out experiments in  
Modulation or Radio Telephony, subject to the subjoined conditions:—

- a) Modulation of more than 100% is in no account to be used;
- b) The same gramophone record must not be played more than  
five times in any one day; and
- c) This permission may be withdrawn at any time, by order  
of the Governor.

By Command,

*R. Castello*  
Acting Secretary to Government.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,  
Valletta, Malta,

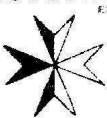
*[Signature]*  
Date...18th October 1937.

Here there may be some difficulty because **ZB1A HG Cunningham** was licensed in **1933** as **VP3A** although there may be a mistake in this date.

However, according to what there is on a **QSL** a copy of which may be found in magazine number 35 page 15, in **1933** there were already at least **22** licenses issued up to **VP3V**.

This means that at least **22** radio amateurs were licensed in Malta in **1933**, because at that time licenses were issued according to the next alphabet letter.

Therefore, this is an indication that **VP3E** was officially licensed in **1932** to transmit with Morse code and in **1937** by means of telephony, because we know that unofficially he had already started transmitting in **1914** with home made apparatus.

 <p>EXPERIMENTAL RADIO STATION  <b>ROBERT F. GALEA</b>          20, COLLEGIATA STREET,          B-CARA, MALTA</p>		<p>To RADIO</p> <p>OUR PHONE, CW QSO</p> <p>ON</p>
<p>TX</p> <p>VFO/CO-FD-BA-PPA</p> <p>MOD</p> <p>INPUT WATTS</p>	<p><b>ZB1E</b></p> <p>(EX VP3E)  <b>W.A.C. W.B.E. B.E.T.A.</b></p>	<p>AT GMT</p> <p>REPORT</p> <p>BND MC</p> <p>RST</p> <p>QUALITY</p> <p>MOD</p> <p>DX CONDS</p> <p>REMARKS</p>
<p>RX</p> <p>TRF-VI</p> <p>S.S. SUPERHET</p> <p>PSE QSL DIRECT OR          TNX VIA R.S.G.B.</p>	<p>RSGB</p> <p>FIRST ON AIR          JAN. 1914</p> <p>VY 73 ES BEST DX</p>	

<p>20, Str. COLLEGIATA, B-CARA, MALTA</p>			
TO RADIO	UR	MC	SIGS HRD HR
AT	GMT ON	193	QSA R T
RSGB	<p><b>VP3E</b></p>		QSO
BERU			ON MC
REMARKS			
PSE QSL	73 ES DX	R.F. GALEA, OP.	

As one can see, the Governor General always kept the right to revoke the licence whenever he deemed fit.

One thing that one can also notice in **Robert's QSL** cards is that the writing is in older Maltese style, that is, Italianized, as can be clearly seen in the address.

Thanks to **Christopher**, **9H1BW** who passed me a copy of the letter and licence of **Robert Galea** and **VP3E's QSL** cards.

If someone else has some information about other radio amateurs and also about the same **VP3E** please give it to me personally or send it to my e-mail address at **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

**Lawrence**  
**9H1AV/9H9MHR**

### **Woodpecker**

Many remember how much interference there used to be on HF that made it impossible at times to communicate with other radio amateurs. This interference was being caused with what was known as **OTHR** meaning Over The Horizon Radar, that is a radar that can see further than the horizon, normally even thousands of miles.

It was calculated that the radiated power was more than **10 Megawatts** which is an enormous power, and it was for this reason apart from the form of the signal which in itself causes interference because it is known as pulse, used to make all that interference.

A few years ago there used to be another signal spaced some **100 kHz** and used to be heard on all the **HF** even when propagation was dead. This shows that this apparatus had enormous power because otherwise it would not have been heard when the propagation was dead, but it appears that at least this is no longer working.

However it may be that in Malta we are going to have as had been announced, electricity and water meters that send consumption information every quarter hour by means of the electricity cables themselves.

How much these meters are going to cause interference depends on the frequencies that are going to be used and the transmitters power that they have to use to be able to deliver the required information to the control centres.

Therefore, **MARL** is already working to see what this system is going to be, the apparatus power, frequencies and all that is required to prevent the creation of interference as a result of which we would not be able to communicate.

This is apart from the interference they can create to essential services such as the security forces, ambulances, taxis, public transport and all those who use radio apparatus to communicate.

Inside the home there may be interference on the frequency used because the water meter will probably transmits the information to the electricity meter which will then transmit all the information to the control centre. If the water meter transmits the information itself, we may be talking about two different frequencies. We are taking care of these things and if we have any information we will let you know as usual.

To come back to our subject, I think that everyone would like to have such an antenna to use on our frequencies, but I am certain that there are not many who have enough money to make such an antenna.

Remember that those antennas that you see in the photos are for **HF** not **VHF** or **UHF**.















Thanks to **Chris, 9H1BW**, who passed this internet link to me to be able to download this information <http://www.artificialowl.net/search/label/Ukraine>

**Lawrence**

**9H1AV/9H9MHR**

### **Theoretical and Practical Training**

Practical training is being held for everyone by **Dominic 9H1M**, both those who have just started as well as those who wish to retrain a little. The subjects include Security, Tools and Instruments, Procedures, Soldering, Project Building, Testing, Fault Finding, and more.

The classes are being held at the **MARL** Centre every Tuesday between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. and have started on 13 January.

All those attending are not only enjoying themselves, but they are learning new things that some of them did not know about, among them seeing how you can have a good earth connection and how to measure the earth resistance. This training is being held at our Centre and may be held again later on. Thanks to **Dominic 9H1M**.

Training in first aid is also being given to the emergency group which training is being held in Valletta City by the St John. As you can see the Committee did not stand idle and worked ceaselessly in the interest of the members and you can see more results later on.

**Lawrence**

**9H1AV/9H9MHR**

### **Activities**

#### **Membership payments**

**For all those who want to pay their membership the Financial Secretary is waiting for you with open arms to receive your payment. Payment of €23 can be made every Tuesday and Thursday between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. and on Sundays between 10.00 and Noon or by cheque by post payable to M.A.R.L.**

#### **Yahoo Group**

**Be attentive and become members in the yahoo group to be fully informed with the latest activities that we intend to hold.**

#### **Food**

**I remind you that every alternate Thursday, that is, Thursday yes Thursday no, an eating activity is held at the Club where whoever is present and is not on diet may eat against a nominal payment. For more details speak to Joe, 9H1AJ.**

**Lawrence**

**9H1AV/9H9MHR**